

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 14892 011731Z

43

ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T CAIRO 14892

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR LE SY EG KU SA JO US  
SUBJ: TALK WITH FAHMY ON RIYADH AGREEMENT AND HIS MEETING  
WITH GROMYKO

REF: (A) STATE 268211, (B) PARA 3, STATE 268212

1. DURING MY MEETING WITH FAHMY TODAY, I TOLD HIM ABOUT MY TALK WITH SADAT AND GAVE HIM YOUR PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF THE RIYADH AND CAIRO SUMMITS AS SET FORTH REFTEL A. FAHMY LISTENED ATTENTIVELY AND GENERALLY AGREED WITH OUR ASSESSMENT. WHILE HE WELCOMED OUR EFFORTS TO URGE RESTRAINT AND COOPERATION ON CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP, HE COMMENTED THAT CHRISTIANS SHOULD HOAVE NO CAUSE FOR CONCERN. IT WAS TO REASSURE THE CHRISTIANS THAT THE DECISION HAD BEEN MADE, ALBEIT RELUCTANTLY, TO PLACE THE ADF UNDER SARKIS. THE FACT THAT SARKIS WILL HAVE THIS FORCE AT HIS DISPOSAL SHOULD REASSURE THEM. HE EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN THAT ISRAEL MIGHT TRY TO INCITE CONTINUED CHRISTIAN CONCERNS. HE ALSO RECALLED HE HAD EARLIER GIVEN ME HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE CONFERENCE (CAIRO 14822) AND SAID HE STILL STAND BY THAT. HE THINGS THE SITUATION IN LEBANON WILL EVOLVE VERY SLOWLY AND THAT MUCH WILL DEPEND UPON SARKIS'S FORCEFULNESS OR LACK THEREOF.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 14892 011731Z

2. ALLUDING TO FAHMY'S UPCOMING MEETING WITH GROMYKO IN SOFIA# I OBSERVED THAT WE FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT GOE MUST PURSUE ITS OWN FOREIGN POLICY. I NOTED, HOWEVER, HAT ANY MARKED RAPPROACHMENT WITH SOVIETS AT A TIME WHEN WE EANT TO BEGIN OUR EFFORTS TO RENEW THE PEACE PROCESS CAN ONLY COMPLICATE MATTERS FOR US. UNLIKE THE PRESIDENT (CAIRO 14829), FAHMY SAID HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND OUR APPROACH. AS I HAD RIGHTLY SAID, GOE MUST AND WILL PURSUE ITS OWN FOREIGN POLICY. AS HE HAD TOLD ME, HIS MEETING WITH GROMYKO IS NOT INTENDED TO ALTER RELATIONS WITH THE US. IN ANY CASE, THE SOVIETS MUST PLAY A ROLE IN THE PEACE PROCESS. EVEN WE HAVE ADMITTED THAT TO BE THE CASE. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, HE PROFESSED NOT TO BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND OUR CONCERN.

3. IN ANY CASE, HE EXPRESSED PESSIMISM ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE. THE LATEST US ARMS TO ISRAEL WILL NOT MAKE THE ISRAELIS MORE FLEXIBLE. ON THE CONTRARY, HE ARGUED, IT HAS REPEATEDLY BEEN DEMONSTRATED THAT ARMS OFFERS TO ISRAEL MAKES THEM LESS SO. I REITERATED TO HIM WHAT CHARGE MATTHEWS HAD SAID EARLIER; NAMELY, THAT THE NEW ARMS DELIVERIES WILL NOT ALTER THE BALANCE OF POWER AND TOLD HIM THAT DELIVERY WILL NOT TAKE PLACE FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS AND ON SOME OF THE MORE SENSITIVE ITEMS EVEN LONGER. FAHMY SAID HE HAD THE LIST OF ITEMS AND COULD NOT AGREE WITH OUR ASSESSMENT THAT THE WILL NOT AFFECT THE BALANCE OF POWER. EGYPT WILL HAVE TO BEGIN TO LOOK FOR COMPENSATING EQUIPMENT AND THE ARMS RACE WILL ONCE AGAIN BE UNDERWAY.

4. I ASSURED HIM, AS I DID THE PRESIDENT YESTERDAY, THAT WEE ARE DETERMINED TO RESUME THE PEACE PROCESS IN 1977 AS WE HAD WORKED OUT WITH OUR EGYPTIAN FRIENDS. FAHMY SAID THAT IF PRESIDENT FORD WINS, HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT WE WILL DO SO. AGAIN ALLUDING TO OUR LATEST ARMS OFFER TO ISRAEL , HE OPINED THAT IT WILL MAKE THE ISRAELIS EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH. THEY ARE NOT LIKELY, IN HIS VIEW, TO WANT TO WITHDRAW  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03      CAIRO 14892 011731Z

FROM ARAB TERRIORITY AND, HE NOTED GLOOMILY, BOTH SIDES WILL AGAIN FIND THEMSELVES ON THE ROAD TO A NEW WAR.

5. REVERTING TO HIS MEETING WITH GRYMYKO, FAMY AGAIN CALIMED THAT IT IS TAKING PLACE AT SOVIET INITIATIVE. THE DATE AND PLACE WERE SUGGESTED BY THE SOVIETS. EGYPT'S WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE SHOULD

IN NO WA EMBARRASS US. NOR NEED WE BE CONCERNED  
ABOUT THE OUTCOME. WHILE EGYPT WOULD LIKE TO NORMALIZE  
RELATIONS WITH USSR, ESPECIALLY IF THIS MEANS  
RESUMPTION OF SOME SOVIET ARMS AID SINCE GOE IS NOT  
LIKELY TO GET ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT FROM US, GOE  
WILL NOT DELIBERATELY DO ANYTHING TO COMPLICATE  
OUR EFFORTS.  
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